

THIS INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY KLAUS HUENEKE WITH TOM BARRY ON THE 10TH MAY 1985.

Tom Barry has a real estate agency in Jindabyne and lives on a property out towards Grosses Plain, sort of south east of Jindabyne. Tom comes from, he is a fourth or fifth generation Barry, in the area and knows quite a bit about the history of the mountains. He *will* probably be with another man called Brian Pendergast, who also comes from an old Monaro family, part of the family from the Omeo way as well, that is they split up a long time ago. Brian and Tom, I think, had a lot more anecdotes and information about long droving trips and long horse rides to the ones I've already got.

I thought I'd actually start from the time you were born. I want to get a few things straight with regards to your family history. When were you born ?

I was born in 1938 out at Moonbah at a place called "Riverview" on the 26th June.

Were you the only son ?

No there were three boys. I've got a brother George older than myself and a younger brother who's about 26 and a sister. She's married and lives at Goulburn on a property there.

Your father was Leo ?

Leo Patrick George.

Your mother was ?

Elsie May formerly Golby, Greg Golby's sister.

So there is a strong connection with the Golby's ?

There was Greg, Hugh, Snowy, Bob, Bill ^{and Karl} whom I think died some years back, plenty of boys in that family. There were three girls Rose, Elsie and Maya. Maya lives out at Grenfell at a property out there.

Yes I've interviewed Hubert and had a chat with Snowy, and the other one who lives with his sister, Bob. Because I was particularly interested in the Charlie Carter legend. I got a few stories on that.

Well the sister Rose there was extremely, I was talking to her today. I had a lady in here, I get a lot of Barry relatives and Pendergast descendants wonder in here and I've rarely got the time to sit down and tell them what they want to know or fossick out for them. Particularly when they come in and say well my father was Tom Barry, there were that many Tom Barry's. The Barry's were a bit like the Pendergasts where they gave different families nicknames. This lady turned up yesterday or the day before. I was flat out so I suggested she go and see Rose. So Rose came in here today and I said did you figure out who she was

and she said yes she was Tommy Tyche's daughter so me and Rose fitted her in to the family.

Yes she seemed to be quite good she was in the background the time I was there, but she knew her stuff well.

Rose has got a lot of material. Rose has in her own quite manner got a lot of knowledge of who was who, she's I don't know how much she is documenting but probably like a lot of those people a lot of it's going to be in her head.

And your father Leo had a brother Lovell, is that right ?

Yes that's right and he never married.

But those two, ^{their} father in turn was James ?

No George.

George, I've got that wrong. George who died in 1917 ?

Yes that's right he collapsed and died at a shire meeting when he was getting stuck into... I must dig out the minutes book and have a look at it but I understand that the council workers had asked for a tuppenny raise or something or another. And the minutes recalled that councillor Barry became quite agitated and said that they shall not have a penny more and grasped his chest and said he didn't feel well and collapsed across the table. I think it recalls that a surgeon was summonsed who declared life extinct and the meeting was adjourned.

The Barry's have had quite a lot of involvement with the shire council in one way or another.

There was George, well, that was how he departed and then Lovell was on the shire for 2 to 3 terms and then of course dad was there, I think he was there for nearly forty years and almost half that time he spent as president.

And then in turn, but then George did have a brother James.

Yes there was James and Tom, that's were Rose Golby comes into it. They were Barry brothers and they traded as Barry brothers and they owned Moonbah Station, was owned by Barry Brothers. They apparently cut up the Barry Brothers holdings. Tommy Barry left and went out to a place called Yagolgrin out west, he sold up and went out there. I think it was really that time when the family really started to split up and move out of the area. I think there was George, James, Tom and I think there might have been a William.

And they were all children of this John Barry ?

Yes, John and Lucy Pendergast.

This is this couple you told me he loved. What was the story about them?

That was Lucy, Lucy was Thomas Pendergast. As far as I can put together old John Pendergast was transported from Ireland for participating in one of the rebellions and he came out here on the 'Minerva' I think it was. Now shortly not long after he got out here it was late eighteenth century I think. Not long after he got out here he was given some sort of a pardon that was available to people who had come out of Ireland and been playing up in Ireland and undertook that they would not return to Ireland or England and they would stay here and they were given some sort of pardon. I understand that he got that so called pardon and got a land grant, he then married and he had one child and his wife died at childbirth. I believe that child was John Pendergast who settled at Cottage Creek just outside of Cooma and he, then Pendergast, this has been fairly well documented by a lady in America who's writing a book.

There was a girl called Helen Williams from Bristol who was convicted of stealing a garment. She came here in about 1798 and she was assigned to Pendergast as an assigned servant. I believe some of the family might be upset, but I believe she became his ^{common-in-law} wife. They can't find evidence that they actually married, and she was the mother of Thomas Pendergast and the rest of the mob. Thomas Pendergast came up here, they were up on the Hawkesbury River and he came here and settled at Moonbah as far as we can gather at 1830 or thereabouts. And his daughter was Lucy. John Barry came through here apparently going to the Omeo goldfields and he stayed some time with Pendergast because apparently his father or he had worked for old Pendergast in the Richmond area. He knew the family and he stayed there for a while but apparently wasn't greatly liked by the Barry family and he left and went over to Omeo or Benambra and subsequently returned and eloped with Lucy Pendergast and they were married in Bombala. They then went to live in Benambra I understand. Now as far as I can put it together Pendergast got in to some financial difficulties and Barry had prospered. I don't know how he prospered but he did and Barry returned and took over Moonbah Station from Thomas Pendergast.

The fourth account that was opened at the Commercial Bank in Cooma was opened by John Barry and his specimen signature was the same one he signed his marriage certificate with a big shaky "x". But he used to receive quite large sums of money, drafts of money through Melbourne and we ^{were} shown the ledgers at the Mitchell library, but the manager at the time showed, showed it to dad before he gave it to the Mitchell library, and these large sums of money are difficult to find out where they came from. And in 1976 when ^{one of my least lucid moments} stood for parliament. My electoral council chairman a bloke by the name of Robert Campbell. Robert lives in Canberra and of course he is a direct descendant of Robert Campbell who owned Duntroon Station etcetera. Campbell and I were in Delegate one day and we met a lady Mrs Reid and Mrs Reid apparently is, I presume she is still alive I've always been going back to see her but I've never got around to it. She would be a person who would have one of the greatest knowledges of local history that I ever came across and she passed some remark about funny seeing a Campbell and a Barry getting about at Delegate together. I sort of enquired a bit further on that one and she told me that as far as she understood it that John Barry

made money by duffing clean skin cattle of Campbell and Boyd, and taking them to Omeo.

Apparently Barry was seen as a bit of a hero amongst some of the local people because Boyd and Campbell had been pretty ruthless in the manner in which they had taken up there a lot of their properties and they'd acquired a lot of property by sending gangs of men around who were little more than thugs who were riding around bashing up the smaller settlers and burning their huts, and running them off the land. It's according to what she told me and that Barry was seen as a bit of a hero because he was coming in and taking the cattle and moving them back into Victoria and selling the cattle over their to, butchering them and selling them to the gold diggers. So that sort of solved where he got his money from. Now when you're talking to Greg Golby if you think of it there is a story about someone who, some guy who I think it was old Woodhouse who worked for Boyd and he was looking after cattle for Boyd way down on the lower Snowy in from Bidi or somewhere or another. And he spent a while there when Boyd got speared, this guy was looking after cattle from down there and no one came near him and he never saw anyone so he finished up and rode away from there and he rode up to Ingebyra and it was supposed to be how Woodhouse come to ^{be at} Ingebyra and settle up at Ingebyra. I don't know when you are talking to Greg Golby he might be able to elaborate on that one for you.

Your father talked quite a bit about the Woodhouses in a interview he did with Neville Gare that I've got a transcript of. That was Charlie Woodhouse was it?

I'll think you'll find that's documented there.

I'm not sure that's in it but there are other stories about him in there.

Yes he was, Charlie Woodhouse might have ^{been} the younger Charlie Woodhouse. I think the old original Woodhouse settled in Ingebyra. I think originally when he died, I think he died reasonably young and his wife had to walk out on to the track, there was a track that went through Buckley's Crossing which is now Dalgety out through Pupong and now Jacob's Ladder and out across the mountain to Omeo. I understand that old Woodhouse as they used to call him, he wasn't that old. When he died his wife had to walk out there and wait on the side of that track until some gold diggers came along and she got them to walk back to the hut, dig a grave and bury her husband for her. So that's one that Greg or Ossie might be able to elaborate for you.

Do you remember any stories about early treks through to Victoria with stock, with cattle and so on?

You see one of the stories that was not documented was a story that was told to me on many occasions by my father and I've heard other people talk about is that the Barry brothers, George and some of them were supposed to have taken a mob of cattle from here at Moonbah through to Victoria and to Bairnsdale, and Thompson's, who owned Cobbin Station next to Moonbah, had sold a horse to some guy who had taken the horse and hadn't paid for

it. They had attempted to get payment for the horse and hadn't been able to and then finally when they caught up with this bloke look he said ^{hadn't} paid for the horse because the horse has got away and he thought ^t had gone home. Now Barry's were supposed to have found this mare this guy had ^{bought and} paid for, running with a mob of brumbies somewhere down on the lower Snowy. They came back and said to Thompson s well look we have found your mare and it has got a big colt foal at foot and they came to an agreement with Thompson s that if they captured the mare and brought it back to Thompson s they could keep the foal and they did that. not

They got the foal, the colt, and they left him as a stallion and he was known as "Recovery," because he was recovered from the bush and he was supposed to have sired some outstanding stock horses and Patterson was supposed to have seen one of these horses, that is one of the reasons, one of the ways that the poem was supposed to have originated. Now a lot of the old timers if you ask them about "Recovery" they'll tell you "Recovery" was the sire of "Great Renown" but that was supposed to be where his name came from. From my time old Bung Harris used to go through with Cochrans. I can just remember as a child, I can just remember him. He was a great character. When I was a kid those treks with cattle through the mountains were almost a common event but when you look at the country that they took cattle through it must have been ^a heck of a feat to take cattle through that country and keep those mobs together and deliver their cattle and the manner in which they stuck to that job. ^I that steep, there was one place called Iron Hoop Gap where the only way, at some stage someone took a wagon through there or a dray through there, and the only way they could do it was they took the big wheel off on the top side and put a little wheel on. They got on to the gap somewhere or another and they pulled it off, and hung the little wheel in the tree and put the ordinary wheel back on the dray and the wheel stayed there until the timber rotted out of it and the iron hoop off the wheel was hanging in the tree there and was called Iron Hoop Gap. I think you might find a bloke called Brian Pender might know where that hoop is, he's hanging on to it for me, wherever that is.

I heard that story various sort of versions of it where they had the same sort of slope always on the same side and they had to contour around and that was the way to go, but I suppose a lot of the time they went through without any wagons or anything?

Oh most of the time. That wagon thing would have been a one off. Most of the time they went with packhorses and the rivers were flooded, they had to swim the rivers there, bloody clothes, their tucker everything got wet. Other times that trip up the Nine Mile must have been hell for man and beast. They had dogs that would have no water all day. Again you'll find the guy that's going to tell you the most about those treks through there will be Greg Golby, because I know that Greg used to tell the story about how he went for water at one stage. They decided to send him back to the river to try and get some water up to the rest of the men and the dogs, because the dogs were just so important. And he went to fill his billy cans and he was that thirsty that he went into the river and had a great drink of water

himself. He finished up he became that weak from having been... must have been almost dehydrated and then drank all this water that he couldn't get back on to his horse, and he knew that these other men were waiting for the water and he couldn't sort of get himself out of the river and get back onto his horse, but you know that, that sort of you know it must have been hard and...

Why didn't they go through and up the Crackenback, I mean up the Thredbo and through Dead Horse Gap and then down to Cascades and on to Tin Mine, onto to the Pilot? It seems longer around but once you're on that divide there you avoid a lot of steep country, you know rather than going through the middle of the Snowy?

I think you'll find that it probably boiled down to the fact that from Ingebyra to Black Mountain it was a tough hard bit of going but it was only for a few days but it was the shortest. And I think they preferred to go that putting those few really hard ways and they must have been properly hard.

Because the Snowy would be in flooded times?

There were times that they'd get through they'd get over the Jacob's and they'd get down there between the Jacob's and the Pinch and they'd both flood and they would be stuck in there. They would have the Snowy on one side, and the Jacobs on another, the Pinch on another and almost impossible terrain to get back up on the Main Range behind them there. There is a great story that my dad used to tell me about old Dave Spencer.

Related to James Spencer?

Yes, he was one of the Spencers. Dave was apparently a great old character, very dry wit old Dave. One of the guys in this yarn is still alive so would you put it on tape, because I think it should be on tape, it's a great story. Some old Rodgers I think, from over about Black Mountain came over and he brought a great heap of sheep, 4 or 5 thousand sheep. He organised a great heap of local stockmen to drove these sheep back to Black Mountain, and because most bushmen from around here would have preferred to drove cattle any bloody day than droving sheep. They set off with all of their sheep and shortly after leaving Ingebyra one particular sheep was a bit sick on it and started to falter and drag behind so one of the drovers Austin decided the best thing to do with the sheep was to pick him up and carry him on the front of the horse. So he picked up the sheep and put him on the front of the saddle and he carried him all day. So they camped the night and got up the next morning and let the sheep out of the break ^{where they held them} for the night. Not long after the sheep started to get behind a bit so Austin picked him up and put him on the front of the horse again so the third day they're getting down into the tiger country and every one's working fairly hard and the dogs are working fairly hard and Austin's got this sheep in front of him, 'cause he's carrying the sheep on the saddle in front of him and he can't leave the track to much and do other things.

So the fourth day they got into some real tiger country, they might have been going up to Nine Mile or somewhere or another. Things got going really bad and this old Rodgers bloke, every one's working their butt off to try and get the sheep up the hill and Austin's sitting up there with this sheep in front of him and old Rodgers the old bloke who owned the sheep he sort of cantered past and he reached out and took the sheep off the front of Austin's saddle and he pulled the pocket knife out and he cut its throat like that and he threw it down over the bank. He never said a word to Austin. Dave comes cantering past ^{and} says to Austin "You can go home now Austy, your sheep's dead."

I don't think Austin Burns would be real pleased if he heard it. Old Dave was a very dry witty old character.

Dave Spencer?

Yes Dave Spencer he had that ability ^{to say} that sort of thing when ^{it was} least expected and least wanted.

Do you know about the Spencers?

No I don't.

There must be at least 2 James Spencer's?

Yes I think.

There's always one that's lorded as being the guide to many parties.

The people, there's two descendants quite elderly but quite, got all their faculties. He's Spencer's, Mrs Willis, Vera Willis and Alice Kidman.

Yes I've been to see the Willis lady.

And Alice Kidman lives around here in Munyang street. Well they are direct descendants of the Spencer s so they're the ones that'll probably sort out breeding and so forth. No they were well before my time, apart from the yarns that the old man used to tell about Dave. No I don't know anything about the Spencer s.

Well they then had a sort of boarding house type thing at The Creel, where they took groups of fishermen from there to the hills and so on. But there must have been at least two James Spencer's, because one couldn't have spanned the time that they were active?

One of the things that I think that happened quite regularly of course was that there were illegitimate children, who were taken in and reared as part of the family. Now here not long ago I had a guy turned up here and he was related to the Pender's and he came in and started talking about who his father was and so forth so I sent him out to see an old Pendergast bloke out here, and he went out and saw this old bloke and he went in and said I'm so and so and my father was...and this bloke wouldn't talk to him, this old bloke. So he came back and said to me he's no

friendly old so and so, he wouldn't talk to me. So I said I don't know what goes on and so I was talking to another Pendergast at the pub one night and I said about this episode, oh good he said ne's old so and so's son he said, old so and so was born on the wrong side of the blanket he said they still won't admit that he ever existed. One of the girls in the family had an illegitimate child and you know they reared him sort of in the family and reared him in the back room and he never existed. I think you know that might have happened more often than not.

Well it happens today so it must have happened then ?

Also it must have happened those days and I'll think you'll find that, I'm not saying that any old Spencer was illegitimate, but sometimes when you run in to a funny corner or something or a family tree that's what it is.

It's just that he's also, James Spencer is also lorded as being one of the men from Snowy River. You know he's sort of got this aura about him.

I'm of the opinion that the Man from Snowy River thing. I gave a bit of a Talk about it over in the night that we presented old Tommy and Molly Taylor with the award. I'm of the opinion that Patterson wrote about the qualities of men who did the sort of thing we were talking about taking the cattle through that particular area. It was about a man who was prepared to stick his neck out and do a job. That's what you know I for no other reason than the fact that there was something there that had to be done and I think a lot of these people had nothing else but their own ability, their own bush ability, and their faith in that ability to do a job and they did it. I think that Patterson was a man whose insight, his assessment of his fellow human beings was so good that I think that it was that poem was no particular man but it was written as a tribute to the type of men who were doing the types of jobs that they did here. You know that's my opinion of it. Tom Mitchell sort of, there's a variety of stories on Riley, but I'll think you'll find that Riley's background wouldn't bear looking into to far. I think you'll find that Riley was a tailor by trade, did you know that ?

That's what some people have said, yes I've heard that.

How did he learn tailoring in those days? Her Majesty used to teach tailoring in some of her better institutions. I think you'll find that Riley had a holiday at Her Majesty's expense.

There were stories about that too.

Dad told me that Riley, the story was that Riley had done time in for I think stealing a horse but dad said that Riley had definitely done time and Barry Brothers at that stage owned Tom Groggin. They brought it off the Thompsons and they had Tom Groggin I think they used to use it mainly as place that, there was no road into it or anything it was just a big mountain run, Groggin. They used it mainly as a place to wean the calves over in to the Autumn. They used to take their calves over onto that

side and keep the cows on this side and when it snowed well they had a natural barrier between them and as I understand it Riley got out of gaol and they would live, no one sort of wanted much to do with him because horse thieving wasn't sort of looked up to in those days. So old one of the old Barry's gave him the opportunity to go over there and live in the hut and sort of keep an eye on the place. Dad said that he can remember his father talking about how they used to go over to get Riley to make a pair of trousers and pay for them. They would ride to Tom Groggin and get Riley to make these clothes for them. He learnt the trade while he was in the clink.

Some people said that he was set up with some stock either cattle or horses that someone had sort of planted with his mob and then he was found out.

That could bear some truth too because I, it sounded to me as though old, which ever old Barry it was that set him up over there in a hut and so forth must have felt some either indebted to him in some way or felt that he had suffered some injustice.

It's a very substantial hut. The photos I've seen of it, it was a log hut, the main part of it, it was a very solidly built place. He must of had help, it wasn't just a sort of bush shack ?

No it was quite a solid establishment.

It was a log cabin style.

But you know there must have been some reason for them to take him in and put him there, I always felt. But no Mitchell, sort of, well Mitchell was a headline grabbing old gentlemen and took opportunities to create some.

He put up the stone on his grave I think ?

Yes it's a pity that the facts of history they get distorted.

Well sometimes it's the person who shouts the loudest and the loudest that wins through and it's like the naming Kosciusko and whether Strzelecki climbed the top you know, it goes on and on. Of course that adds to the myth of The Man From Snowy River and who he was and what actually happened. It adds to the whole aura of it in a way.

It's something that at least we know it wasn't Kirk Douglas.

It most probably didn't happen in Victoria, not at that part of Victoria although there were men from Snowy River down there to and the same type of person still roams the hills there much more than here.

Yes well this is one of things about the poem it could have been anywhere. One thing about if you read the poem a lot of people don't really understand with it. One thing about it that is definite is that it wasn't anywhere on the Snowy River, because he was the Man From Snowy River, so if you are going to set the poem in its proper place one thing about it, it wasn't here on

the Snowy River, because he was described as The Man From Snowy River. He was definitely a stranger, and you know when you read the poem he was definitely a stranger. No one knew him he, they didn't even know his name he was the Man From Snowy River, obviously the one thing you can be sure of. I, there was you know how every now and then there was a bit of news shortage in Sydney and someone lights on to something and it takes off. Here some years back there was I think may have even been something to do with what Mitchell started and someone rang me and then I had a phone call from one of these talk back shows in Adelaide and this guy came on and typical smart alec radio bloke knew everything because he started yabbering about the fact that Clancy of the Overflow was the Man From Snowy River and I said now just pull up and have a look at what you are talking about I said. Clancy was a completely different man I said he was there I said Clancy was the only one who stood his ^{feet}, but I said he was most certainly not Clancy, and he said about the thing taking place here in the Snowy River and I said if you read the poem it was anywhere but, because he was The Man From Snowy River and wherever he was ^{he was} completely unknown. You know the interesting thing is the final stanza of that poem where the reed beds sweep and sway and the stockmen tell the story of his ride.

So a qui river isn't it ?

That's out on the Macquarie some-where on the overflow of where the reed beds sweep and sway, the stockmen tell the story of his ride so it was obviously it was away from here some where so ^{Eagley,} the only thing he did get right was the fact he ^{... - filmed} the thing away from the Snowy River.

Do you remember Charlie Carter at all ?

As a kid yes I can remember this old character who I suppose my main clearest memory of old Charlie Carter was meeting him riding in to Jindabyne to get some supplies one day and when, I was down the road with dad, I was home from boarding school and dad and I were down the road mustering sheep or taking sheep up the road and old Charlie arrived in and his great surprise and concern old Charlie showed when dad told him that another war had broken out. That was when the Korean war had broken out and I think it had been going for something like 6 months at this stage and this old boy didn't know that there was another war on. You know it was something that was of grave concern to Charlie because he had written several books, and I can remember, you know I can remember as a youngster that had been away to boarding school and was pretty up to date with every-thing that was going on and meeting this old man on the side of the road who, a war had been going on for 6 months and that the whole world was talking about it and he didn't know it was on. The other thing that sticks in my mind with Carter was he was always chewing something, a piece of rubber or a horse shoe nail or something or another like that. He was always chewing and I can remember once I don't know where it was, it was Bob Golby, who was my uncle. Bob and I met him somewhere and got to explaining about how he was only three feet away from this gold vein and he wanted someone to go out and do a bit of digging for a few weeks to break through to where this vein of gold was.

He sort of offered to Bob if Bob would go out there and do a couple of weeks digging for him he'd give him half the gold and I was a bit mystified at the time as to why Bob didn't sort of down tools and jump to and get a half share of this gold mine, but I found out later in life that Charlie was always only 2 or 3 feet away from the big one. He was always going to break through, he traced it through and he was he would shortly be there. Dad used to tell a tale about old Dave Spencer meeting old Charlie somewhere or another and Charlie could have had a evil smelling poultice of some kind on his elbow and Dave and someone else met him and Charlie got explaining how he was drawing out the cancers and the poisons from his body through this poultice on his elbow, and when they got away from Charlie, Dave said I think he's got the poultice in the wrong place he said, I think he needs the poultice on his head. That was his description of Charlie. He used to burn himself and he was always on that sort of thing apparently, he put some shocking burns on himself at times.

They say he rubbed himself with bluestone or something ?

Yes he was mad on bluestone.

What was bluestone usually used for ?

It was a great old bush remedy bluestone what it didn't bloody burn out of you. It was copper sulphate and it was used for sterilizing and anything at all. It was terrible damn stuff if you put it on, you know mainly for it mainly had the effect of beating away proud flesh any dead flesh. It was the thing it was used for as an old bush medicine. We used to, even in my day we used to use it a lot on stock. If you've got a horse with what we call proud flesh provided you put in on with a very weak solution it would clean.

Like an outside sore or something, you put in on as a solution ?

You washed it you just got enough you just put enough of it into a mixture of you know into water, just enough to give the water a blue tinge was as much, if put it on any stronger it would burn like hell. I remember the kids not long ago the kids had, my kids had a cat out there that got caught in a trap and it had an extremely badly infested foot. This bloody cat was getting about there walking about on this pussy, evil smelling, foot, and the kids wanted me to take it to the vets. So I wasn't wasting much taking a damn scrub cat to the vet. So I got it one day and I found some bluestone somewhere or another and I bathed its foot in this bluestone and you know it must have burned hell out of it I think but it cleaned it all up and it took all the smell out of the foot. And the foot went sort of well I wasn't sure it dried out and it went all hard and dried out and it was getting about on this dead foot and every time it would step on this foot you would hear it go clunk. So I went away to Sydney somewhere or another and one of the kids rang up and said guess what dad. Young Abby rang me in Sydney and said "guess what, dad, the cat's foot fell off."

So much for bluestone.

But it took all the, what happened with it was that was all cleaned up and there was just this old hard dead bit of foot on the end of the leg. The cat's still out there now, the kids call it Tripod because it's only got three legs. But it survived.

So that's what bluestone was used for. What's your version of the feud between the Carter and the Freebody's? There are sort of various versions of it around.

Yes I don't know what it was over it was something that was pretty damn desperate. Carter was a hell of a good shot apparently he could shoot anywhere, one of the best rifle shots you'd find anywhere I believe, and I know that dad said something to Carter one day and Carter said the only reason that he hadn't shot them was that he could never get the two of them together, with the one shot. And I think that indicated that Carter had an extremely healthy respect for the Freebody's because I think it indicated that if he had shot one of them he would have had the other one to deal with.

So why so much animosity?

I don't know.

What did Carter know that, did Carter know something, did the Freebody's?

I understand the Freebody's were instrumental in having Carter arrested and charged and placed in gaol at one stage.

Yes I heard that, so they planted a skin in his place or something?

Yes I don't know they set him up they framed him somehow or another. Dad never had any time ^{at all} for particularly - old Paddy Freebody they, dad and the Freebody's were deadly enemies.

Were they sorts of bits of hillbillies or something?

Oh no you wouldn't classify old Jack and Paddy as hillbillies I think they were pretty astute characters they, old Paddy Freebody probably owned the best Hereford cattle that I've ever seen and the old boy the farm that he had out here was probably the best managed property that you would find anywhere and he, he was one of the most disliked people that you would ever come across anywhere but most people had a fairly healthy respect for him and I know that whilst the old man hated him and he was always on to old Paddy and old Paddy was always trying to get at him. I know the old man never underestimated him and you know dad used to tell the story of, Carter left here I don't know whether you knew that or not, Carter left here and went to Queensland for quite some time in the midst of that feud. Carter came back driving an old truck that I think the remains are still parked at the back of the shed at Bob Golby's. Now he would have got back to Bob Golby's and that's where ^{he broke down and} it would have stayed and they tell the story of coming back into Queanbeyan the brakes wasn't too good

on the old truck so rather than risk having an accident in Queanbeyan without the brakes,

Carter got out somewhere or another out by the side of Queanbeyan and he cut a drag, he cut a log and he tied them on behind with a piece of chain and he drove through Queanbeyan and he was supposed to have told the owner that there was a policeman standing on the corner looking at him as he came through Queanbeyan dragging this log and the policeman was laughing that much that he didn't do anything with him but he was supposed to arrive back at Moonbah with that old truck with the tyres on it stuffed with straw because he'd run out of tubes and so forth and he was down there running it on the rims and Dad said that he was down the road with old Paddy and Jack Freebody and they brought some cattle in from the bush or Dad had brought some cattle in from the bush and there was Freebody's cattle in with Barry's cattle and they were draughting them in a bit of a laneway that was down the road. Dad looked up and he saw this truck coming and he could see who was driving it, it was Carter, and he said old Paddy looked straight up at the truck and he recognized Carter, and Dad said that Paddy went white when he saw him he said that he had never seen a man go as white as what he did when he saw this Carter was back. He sort of said something to the old man about "did you ever see who was driving that?" and Dad said "yes, Charlie Carter" and he said old Paddy couldn't wait to get his cattle out of the mob and get away and he said that when you know that he knows that the minute that Freebody saw Carter was back that Carter had the, the Freebody's had the bloody wind up. No idea of what it was whether it was.

Had the Freebody's been up to something?

Oh yes I think that went on all the time.

Carter I mean: it seems to be, Carter was a bit of a stranger in this country any way wasn't he. I mean he was from Melbourne wasn't he?

Oh yes, Finn was the other old character that was about out there, old Charlie Finn, he must have been a great character he, I think he must have been the only guy that Carter ever got friendly with, because I think that they did sort of live together at one stage, they shared a hut there at one stage. That's the only time I'm aware of that Carter ever really got friendly with anyone.

Do you know remember any long droving trips that the Freebody's did?

The Freebody's were both fairly old men by my time they, my memory of Paddy and Jack Freebody, I remember old Paddy arrived on the boundary fence where it joined our place when we were kids. I remember Dad having a hell of a row with him one day and I suppose I would only be about 5 years of age but I can still remember ad having a row with old Paddy Freebody and I can remember he said to old Paddy the words that stick in my mind "if you try to come between me and my kids bloody lousy old bastard I'll shoot you". I remember that and I know that I was

frightened at the time and I realised after looking back on it that I think it must have been sort of a turning point in Dad's relationship with old Freebody. I think it was the first time Dad ever stood up to him and really let him know how he felt and I think that Freebody was clever enough to realise that you know that Dad was a man who spent a lot of time, now he was Dad must have been close to 30 about 35 years of age when he got married so and I think that Freebody realised that the game had changed and Dad was married and he had a family and that he really had something to dig his bloody toes in and that he wasn't going to be easily pushed around. You know that there had been bad blood there for years, Dad had got old Paddy off the shire, and he got on to the shire and then I think this sort of got on, and after that we never ever had any trouble with old Paddy after that.

But he was the sort of bastard he'd go down to your paddock and take cattle out of your paddock and take them up and he'd put them in the yard and he'd ring up and he was always, old Paddy was quite well I don't know whether he was well educated, but he was very well read. He was a real top old bush lawyer, he knew his P.S. board act and his local government act and they you often hear a lot of these old bush say as a joke they would be having an argument they would go to express a point they'd mimic old Paddy and they'd say it's in the act. Old Paddy used to always be saying it's in the act.

If you wanted to put something over Carter he'd probably be the person who could.

Yes well see Carter was fairly well read himself too.

In a different sort of way I suppose ?

Whether it was just a clash of personalities or what it was I don't know but they were certainly, you've heard the story about the flour that the Carter's, that the Freebody's left in the hut, the flour and sugar in a hut out at Ingegoodbee and they left a sign on the bag, printed on a little piece of paper stuck on the bag, "this food has been poisoned." This was to stop anyone else using it, so Carter was down there and discovered this bag of stuff with this sign on it so he wrote underneath it "if it wasn't before it is now". So no one got the flour.

There was probably nothing wrong with it ?

No well that was it but you don't know who was going to run the risk of finding out.

That's a nice one I like that.

Old Jack and Paddy used to, my clearest memory of Jack and Paddy was down here in the old town in the bush nurse's cottage. Both lived on to be very old men who were bed-ridden and old sister Passmore sort of took them in the old cottage hospital and she had men lived in the cottage hospital. One of the greatest characters that ever lived around here, one of greatest bushmen that I knew of in my day and Brian will tell you more about him he was the guy Brian went out with looking for that cattle was

Teddy McGufficke. Teddy like most top bushmen and so forth liked a cold drink on a hot day and he used to get on the grog. Something had gone wrong with Teddy at some stage, it would have to be serious for him to have to spend a night in bed at the cottage hospital but he stayed there at the little cottage hospital apparently old Jack and Paddy got old and they didn't sleep much they would sort of be sleeping all day and wouldn't be able to sleep at night time and so forth. This old Paddy used to lay awake at night time and he'd be in one room and Jack would be in the other and old Paddy would yell out in the middle of the night, "It's been a long night Jack", they would sort of be yelling to one across the hallway so Teddy he used to get drunk and he would be in the pub he'd be honest breed and you'd walk in the door and he'd be standing at the bar and he's look at you and say "It's been a long night, Jack." He'd sort of let you know he'd been at the pub a fair while. But they were very old men when they died. They were bit s of villains in their young days, they got run out of Buckley's Crossing by the Copper down there, a bloke by the name of Hanna. He was a policeman and I met his son years afterwards, I used to work for Commonwealth ores which is now Elders Smiths and he was quite an old man when I met him.

He was telling me about how his father was the policeman at Dalgety and his father run these Freebody blokes out of Dalgety and told them that if ever they came back there while he was in charge of the place he'd put them in because they were down where this old chinamen used to live on the river flat, an inoffensive old bloke who lived on the river flat. He used to grow vegetables and sort of sell them about to the stations and so forth. These Freebody blokes decided they would get the old chinaman down and cut off his pig tail and this Hanna apparently didn't think that was funny because this chinaman, something to do with his pig tail meant if he didn't have his pig tail he went to hell or some bloody thing. So this old chinaman was so distraught over it this policeman pulled them out of town and told them if they bloody come back there he would put them in. So that was the sort of villains they were.

There are stories of them shooting brumbies, but I don't know why any one would want to shoot brumbies.

I think yes there was a fair bit of that went on because the brumbies were fairly, a lot of them became very inbred useless horses and I think they mainly shot them because they saw them as a threat to their grazing, they felt that they were eating everything. As far as I know they just shot them. It's a funny idea some of those old blokes, Dad, old Jack McGufficke must have been probably the most quoted amongst my old man's stories and he must have been some man old Jack. He wouldn't allow anyone working for him to shoot a dingo because he reckoned if they got rid of dingoes out of this country the sheep men would move in and he didn't want bloody sheep in that country.

An interesting way of thinking ?

That reason to tell a bloke a story, they would talk about a certain employee that I've got and I think of all the stories that dad used to tell the one that sticks in my mind the most,

and I've seen it so often in varying degrees and borne out as the truth was, he used to tell the story about Jack McGufficke used to have a lot of cattle out in the mountains and Jack used to take various people working for him and he usually have a couple of old people, older guys who knew the mountains knew their job and he takes out a young bloke out there who thought they were worth taking out there. Now Dad went out there with him, he was fairly young, and Jack took him out there on the mountains for a break with him and Dad used to tell the story, they were mustering cattle out at somewhere or other to do something with them. Now Jack McGufficke had this old bloke, Jack Brodie used to work for him. They were mustering cattle one day and Brodie started giving Dad an earful about how old Jack McGufficke was doing the wrong thing with the cattle. He was shifting them into the wrong place and the wrong time of the year and everything he was doing with them was wrong. Dad said that night after they had their feed and around the camp fire and old Brodie had gone to bed, only Dad and old Jack left sitting up there. And he said being young and stupid he decided to broach this subject with old so he said to old Jack you know he said old Brodie reckons you're doing the wrong thing with these cattle, you shouldn't be mustering them out of here you should, it's the wrong time of the year to take them where ever they were going. He said old Jack sat and looked at the fire for a while at last he looked up at Dad and he said "Barry, when you grow up," he said, "and become an old man like me," he said, "you'll learn a lot of things. One of the first things," he said, "you'll learn," he said, "you'll go through life, you're going to find a lot of very brilliant talented men," he said, "with a lot of knowledge, a lot of ability. When you find them," he said, "you'll usually find them working for a stupid old bastard like me. It's an amazing thing when you meet some of the people in this world that are employed by people and how many faults they can find with the person that employs them." There's a lot of truth in that one.

What was this droving trip where they got a lot of snow at Cascades ?

That was the one.

What time was that how long ago was that ?

Well I was ~~trying~~ trying to get Brian to put to find out when that was, I don't know if he's got that figured out yet. I think there's two of them still alive, there's Erie Bale and there's Brian. Now it was ^{around} about May or late May it wasn't actually a droving trip, they put cattle out in the bush and they had them out there for the summer and it came rather unseasonal early snowfall and the cattle were trapped out there and they couldn't find them. It's late enough that they were able to get an aircraft from Cooma airport. They flew around and they spotted a lot of this cattle from the air.

So probably the 1950's maybe, just before - the grazing closed down ?

Yes it would be probably the late 50s when that happened.

What time did grazing finish at Cascades, Tin Mine country ?

That went out with the, that went out with the 4500 feet which was..

'57 or '58 or something ?

So it would be back about that time that it happened but you know the trip was to get in there and get them out. Well they found them from the air. When you talk to Brian about it, it must have been an incredible damn feat that, that men could go in there and do a job under the conditions that they went in there.

And Teddy McGufficke was on that trip ?

Yes Teddy McGufficke he owned some of the cattle and he was the leader of that show, but Teddy McGufficke he was recognised as one of the greatest bushmen that was ever around here.

Why was he so good ? He knew the country well or ?

Yes he had an uncanny knack of knowing where to go and how to go and when to go. It was a quality that's hard to define. It was something that some people have got and some people haven't. I think a lot of it was that ability to stick that little bit further with the job rather than throw it in and come back and say well I couldn't do it.

On this occasion what was it that they had, deep snow ?

They had cattle snowed in, they were snowed in about the Lookout and it was impossible, well it seemed impossible to get to the cattle where they were and bring them out. They went in, everyone sort of give them away they were going to die there, and they flew over and the aircraft found them and came back. They saddled up and they went in to get them. As far as I can gather they rode through a lot of snow that, you know their horses had to plunge into it up to their shoulders to get through the snow. Eventually they I think, well they were getting close to where they knew the cattle were they left the horses and they walked in to the cattle and when they got to the cattle, the cattle from being there, snowed then it fined up and there had been heavy frosts and fine days, the cattle were actually snow blind when they got to them and Brian's description of them to me was you know was that they were all half blind and half mad. But, but they managed to get them together into a mob and they took them back up over now I'm not sure just where but I take it over the ^{tops} somewhere near the Tin Mines, and put them on to that - fall down on to the Indi.

The Ingegoodbee track ?

No, no took them back the other way to the head of the Murray, they, they pushed them down, got them down below the snowline there somewhere or another and eventually brought them out at Tom Groggin.

That's a rugged trip ?

That's, that's you're going into country there that would be some of the bloody worst you would find anywhere in Australia. But Brian can give you the details on that and it's one that is really worth recording. The other one that I wanted to tell you about I don't know whether you can suss the details out of it or not from Mrs Pierce but I understand that Mrs Johnny Pierce is still alive in Tooma she'd be quite an age. She'd probably be well worth sitting down and doing a tape with, was when they had cattle snowed in somewhere at the back of Mt. Kosciusko and old Johnny Weston went in there and got some skiers from the Chalet to go in with him and they skied in to where these cattle were and they brought them out on skis and took them out and pushed them out and put them down below the snowline somewhere or another on skis.

Johnny Weston ?

He's dead now Johnny, some of his sons, ^{Oliver Weston,} lives in Cooma and Pearl Constance is one of his daughters, whether Pearl would know the facts of that one I don't know but the other journey that I know of that I can't document or anything for you was the one where Lucy Barry who was Thomas Pendergast's daughter got married to John Barry the guy who used to duff cattle, rode from Benambra back to Moonbah with the kids. I take it that there were two children and one on the way or something, and she had two of the kids stuck in a, virtually a pack bag hanging over the back of the horse. She was pregnant and riding side saddle and rode from Benambra back to Moonbah. Which ^{must} have been quite a journey.

Well Lucy was born in 1834, now this was probably, she would have been say late or early twenties or something like that, and she got married in the 1850s or something like that when that happened. That's worth documenting all right. Why did she do that?

As far as I can gather Thomas Pendergast got into financial difficulties here and John Barry made quite a bit of money out of Boyd's cattle and I think he came back and took over the, took over Moonbah Station.

This Lucy was with her husband at the time, she wasn't alone ?

She's, she's the one who was supposed to have then, bushrangers held the place up and ^{Lucy Barry} brought some gold back with her and she had some gold she used to keep in the house. These bushrangers held them up and she slipped the gold into the dirty nappies that she had just taken off the babies. These blokes ransacked the house and couldn't find the gold and she'd shoved it with the nappies.

Clever thinking, then you've got to wash it out afterwards that's all ?

Sort the nuggets out .

That's right. What about this Straighty Pendergast what do you remember ^{about} him ?

I don't remember a lot about Straighty, I've heard a lot of stories about him. The most I remember about Straighty was dad going down to see him not long before he died but Brian is his grandson, Brian Pendergast. He was, Straighty was renowned for his Whip and his ability to plait it was, apparently he could plait whips.

Was there something about him shooting, accidentally himself through the knee which led to his straight leg or something ?

There's a question mark about how he got shot in the kneecap. But I did ask Brian one day and Brian told me in all honesty he said he didn't know but it was never discussed in the family.

I see one of those ones ?

I think John O'Brien best described it in his ^{"Around the Boree Log"} when he said we'll leave the embers unstirred there, I'll think we'll have to leave it there. It's something Brian will talk about.

What about Harry Nankervis do you remember ?

No he was on the other side, again his sons are still alive over there, Jim Nankervis.

Yes I interviewed Jim. This last droving trip Ossie Wellsmore referred to it about 1950 or something, do you remember?

I'm trying sort of to identify the last droving trip into the mountains here ?

[George]

As far as, I went with Taylor's cattle in '53 I think on to I think it was '53 I went up there I had a pony that had just been broken in, a little pieball. The biggest bloody rogue that ever existed and I went on this pieball pony to work it for the day and there was, as far as I can gather 2,100 bullocks in that mob. They were the last Taylor's, I just don't know what would have been the year that Taylor would have taken cattle into the mountains.

Out that Cascade country ?

Out Cascade right through there, Cascade, Dead Horse.

Through to Tin Mines ?

I don't know if he went ^{to the} Tin Mines I think, oh, what's his name out the Tin Mines there, I think who used to come over, Mowatt, I think Don Mowatt may have had the Tin Mines. Taylor may have gone to the Tin Mines and ^{Mowatt} came in after him but ^{Mowatt} was the last bloke to have the Tin Mines.

Taylor would have perhaps been more back into Drift Hill ?

Yes I think he was back, back around in the head of the Moonbah River, back down around the back of Round Mountain, there and so forth in on to Long Plain. But the last actual droving trip that I think cattle walking through from home to Bairnsdale as far as

I know was Snowy Golby and Billy Wellmore. They took cattle, some of Snowy's and some of Dad's, and old Snowy was thrown off his horse and had a cerebral haemorrhage on the trip and very nearly died. That would have been about 1962 because I know it was after the road was pushed through they went through. I don't think anyone else has actually walked through there since then. So I know I went down there and shifted their camp for them a couple of times and then when he got crook and they put him into hospital I took his wife down to see him but that would have been about '61 or '62. But that was after the track had been bulldozed through.

Yes that road that goes in by the Jacobs River and the back of the Grosses Plain to the Tin Mines country, a SMA track.

Yes but it was you know like most SMA tracks it was still an old stockmens track.

It was an old stock route was it ?

It was on that track that Dave Spencer broke his legs out there somewhere or another and he organised a team of men to go in and bring him out and this is a story his Dad tells quite often in fact, I think it might be in that Neville Gare interview. It seems like there was a bushman by the name of Luidy Higgins, by the time they reached old Dave Spencer, I think he had a fairly badly broken leg, it was dark. They made up a stretcher, I think, some of them with Dave had ridden back over on to back towards Quombat somewhere or another and found some men and got them to come back to pick up old Dave up and carry him into Grosses and in the meantime word had got through to Grosses. There must have been a group of them out there mustering when the accident occurred. A group went back from Grosses and they met up out there somewhere. When they got out there they met ^{some of} them carrying old Dave on the stretcher. They told the story that they were carrying him in there somewhere and Tom Golby who was Greg's father I understand and Luidy Higgins started arguing about. I think old Tom reckoned Luidy was lost. So finally they decided rather than carry him in the night time carrying this stretcher that they'd make a fire and they'd sit it out till daylight till they could make sure they'd had their bearings. When it became daylight Luidy lit the fire and in daylight the fire was sitting there in the middle of the track and they reckon Luidy lit the fire fair in the middle of the track just to prove he knew where he was. That's the story Greg Golby might be able to. I wouldn't be surprised if Greg may have been in the party I don't know. Greg's a bloke if you get him going he could talk all day but if it's on an off day you might not get much out of him.

He invited me around you see, come around and have a chat. I rang him up so I thought I'd go around there and he's in his 80s now isn't he. He's the oldest of the brothers isn't he ?

Yes he'd be about 86 so he's, when you meet him he's like a bloke in his 60s or something.

They are all long lived the Golby's aren't they ?

Carl died quite young but the rest of them are very solid. The old fella and the grandmother they lived till to be a great old age. They used to call old Tom Golby, "Last Time" Golby because every time he went on a droving trip to Bairnsdale he would always tell every this is going to be my last trip, so he was always known as "Last Time" Golby.

That's the old man ? What about the track that goes in from Dead Horse Gap, an SMA, but that would have been an old route too ?

Yes I think so because that's, that's natural sort of you're travelling right along the Divide. We actually drove a, what year would it have been? '69, yes about '69. We drove a Ford Falcon car from Dead Horse Gap back to Benambra.

Along that road ?

Yes we had to get out and walk at one place and the sort of bushman Teddy McGufficke was, it wasn't long before Teddy McGufficke died, because the sort of bushman that he was, it was the year that they started *Courage* beer. It's funny how things sort of, I can't remember what year it was, but it wasn't long before Teddy McGufficke died, it was the first year that they made *Courage* beer. John Smith, the Dalgety's agent, and we decided to go to Benambra to the calf sales so John met us early in the morning. Teddy had a landrover and he drove his landrover as far as Cascade Hut, in case we got stuck anywhere. We got to Cascade Hut and he said that we didn't need the bloody landrover, we reckoned we'd take it as far as the Tin Mine. He said that we don't need this bloody landrover, Smithy's going alright. We left the landrover and went to Benambra and went to the calf sales, back to the pub after the calf sales. We had a bit of a session and we took off home, Dad, Teddy and myself and my brother George, but he wasn't drinking because he was driving and we left there. I know we bought 4 dozen cans of *Courage* beer because we'd never seen *Courage* beer before and brought them back to New South Wales. The old man got a bottle of Dawson's whisky and I remember Teddy saying there was enough of the beer, he had, had a heart starter the next morning, but there was no whisky left the next morning by the time we got back to Moonbah. He got up the following morning, caught his horse, rode to the Cascades, got in the landrover, let the horse go, drove back to Jindabyne and had a few snorts at the pub. When he got home his horse was waiting at the back gate to be fed.

That was a three day epic ? Well they drove through one day.

Oh no she was only a two day job, we drove home, went to the pub and got back home that night.

On the same road ?

No we came back in, we came back to Black Mountain up the river. She was a one day trip that one.

That's right that's why the landrover.

That's why the landrover was in the wrong place. He had to ride back in and get the landrover.

It would've been the last time a sedan had gone through there I would think ?

I think it would be about the only time. These old bushmen they were terrific people. I think that the guy that I had the greatest affection for was a bloke in bush for, was old Ulrick Weston. Ulrick was one of those..

Related to Johnny ?

Yes all the Weston's were related, J.B. was, did you mention J.B., the old boy that used to live in Queanbeyan. His brother Ulrick, I quite often look at that ad that BP runs, an ad. called the quiet achievers. I don't know how wether, how much other Australians sort of relate people to that ad but the Australian that, that the best of the Australian bushmen was a quiet achiever. He was a guy who sort of did his job, he knew his job, had complete confidence in being able to do his job and usually his ability was something that couldn't be taught, something that they acquired themselves. It was always done in a very, very quiet manner there was no, they were never brash. They were everything but an eccentric. Old Ulrick Weston, everything he did was done very quietly with a minimum of words, minimum of display of any kind but it was just done. He was, Ulrick was the sort of bloke, he was 100% reliable and we used to be out there, we used to take sheep out to Currango and if a decision had to be made. Is it going to snow ? We get out over the top now ? Should we take all of the sheep out now and go and then come back and look for the others or should we wait another day ? and these things had to be decided. They'd be kicked around and then finally what do you think Ulrick? and Ulrick would say "I think we'll go." No further argument, that was it. Everyone would accept that Ulrick said, Ulrick said "I'll think we'll go." That was it, there was no question of anyone saying "I think you're wrong Ulrick," because everyone knew that if Ulrick said I think we go, we'd go and he had an ability with Sheep dogs. He'd just be walking along and I could still see him, it would be like a picture. Old Ulrick walking along with his reins thrown over his arm leading old horse in the front of the sheep. He continually seemed to be rubbing a cigarette and old Ted was his dog and he'd just look at Ted and he would look at Ted and growl at him. He didn't give him any instructions of any kind, he sort of put to him in a look and the dog knew exactly what he wanted and he went away and did it. You know I could stand on the side of the hill and yell and swear and throw rocks at the dog all day and he'd never do what I wanted him to do if he didn't like it. Ulrick seemed to have an affinity with animals. It's something you can't define.

It would come with time wouldn't it, you wouldn't take it straight away ?

I think that it's something that you could see in kids, my

brother's got a young kid young Michael. Now young Michael from being a kid had an uncanny ability with animals. He could sort of walk into a yard if you were doing something with stock, step into the right place and know what to do and you know he left school, they sent him away to boarding school and what have we, and he left school and headed to the Northern Territory. He's gone back there now and he's a damn good horsemen and it's something that's, I think it's to a degree it's born. Ogilvie wrote that poem "The man who's steadied the lead." Have you ever seen that ?

No.

Well that's sort of that's, it sums them up to a degree. He wrote, I used to have it there in the corner. Have you read any of his poetry ?

No.

Ogilvie was a Scotsman who came out here at the age of 17 and spent all his life in the Australian bush and then finished up and went back to Scotland and died. He was a close personal friend of R.M. Williams, not that long, I think he only died in the late 50s. He wrote a poem about "He was born in the light of a red path, he was nursed by the fire and the flood. He was swaddled in sweat-stained saddle cloth and..." He was never burdened with learning, which is an interesting way of putting it. There are some who think he's a fool, but he mastered a method of turning that was never taught in school. He was a man who steadied the lead. This sort of bloke was never burdened with learning and that he never had to carry that burden. It was, most of those bushmen were like that, the better they were the quieter they were with the exception of some of the, the Bung Harris's and so forth in this world. You always had that flamboyant character amongst them.

Why was he flamboyant, the way he talked ?

No everything he did, everything he did you knew whether it was drinking grog, he could drink more than anyone else. If it was a fight he'd beat any bastard that was around, you know whatever it was. Bung sort of wanted to let everyone know that he could do it.

That he was the greatest ?

Most of the time he was and they tell a story ^{about} Bung when Arthur Cochran died. He was buried out at Yaouk and they tell the story that Bung had had quite a few rums to fortify himself before the funeral. When they placed the coffin in the grave old Bung stepped up to the grave and said "Well Arthur old mate it was your last wish to be buried at Yaouk, I think that we've been buried here all our bloody lives". That was his parting farewell, he's probably the greatest mate he had ever had, old Arthur Cochran.

What about any other one-liners of Bung Harris, I mean there ?

Dad used to have a heap of them.

Did he write any poetry or anything like that ?

No I don't think so, no.

There wasn't much, do you remember much. I mean like down this way ?

Poetry ?

Because I really , I'm really intrigued by the fact that some of these guys must have spent hours by the campfire, lots of hours by themselves. And so I'm after, I kept asking people questions like did you play any music, did you compose any songs, did you start to compose any poetry to entertain yourselves, and there seems to be very little.

Well you see they did I think.

Where is it ?

I've got a heap.

Have you ?

I've got a heap and I think it was something that most of them were reluctant to, see there is one that's, that dad wrote. But I never knew that he wrote that until Robyn Salmon. You know Robyn Salmon ?

Yes.

Rex She surprisingly was friends with this Rex and Judy Collier and gave her a copy of the poem and there's another that Boyd Mould. Now Boyd's still alive. Boyd writes a lot of, now these are, these are some of the new stuff. You see they wrote in their head, many of them were illiterate. There's a guy over at...

Unless someone came along and wrote it down it was lost.

It was lost. There's a bloke over at, Neville, not Neville, Don Kneebone, is one of the blokes in the Mountain Cattlemen's Association over in Victoria and Don writes a terrific amount of stuff and really good poetry. Don's illiterate so it's all in his head. Now old Percy Harris, Percy Arthur Ernest, I've got a heap of the stuff at home that I'm hoping one of these days to get together and put it in a book.

(Tom Barry now reads The Snowy Mountains Stockmen, which is at the back of this interview.)

Any old stuff ?

I've got it at home, I've got stuff that Percy Harris, I've got one old man Elliot wrote back last century on Bidi's "Wide

Dominions."

There was some that were set in the mountains ?

Oh yes well Bidi wrote it about, his family went in and tried to settle out in what they call the Byadbo wilderness. What a bloody place to go and try and live in, back in those days. Ossiie found the piece of poetry for me and copied it out for me and sent it up to me.

Would it be available for me to use in a book ?

I don't know what to do about it, I've got it.

I don't want to use it, I just want to use a few bits.

I've got it out there I want to try to put it in a book, not to publish for my own benefit. What I would like to do with it is to put it in a book so that it's recorded in a book and it's not lost. I did do a tape, which I think is in the Mitchell library.

Are you reciting it ?

Yes, some guy, it's not very well recited, but some guy he was a friend of the Prickle farmer's, Mike Hayes' He came out and we sat down and we recorded. He just asked me, he was an American and he wanted to take it back to some university in America, where they are doing something on folk lore and poetry and songs and so forth. So he wanted it sort of recited onto a tape by an Australian. So I recited it and put it there but I just, it's... It would never make a best seller but I think it's something that is part of the area, and, I think it quite often reflects thoughts of people that they would never ever express publicly. You know what I mean? It's well I think this is, this is the shame that's so much of it is lost. I think quite often these people who lived on their own, you know that it was a way they expressed their thoughts and because it was thoughts they wouldn't openly express, they never made public.

Although they recited it to their friends ?

I think that when they got a few grogs into them you know the sort of, the shields that they built around themselves was their duckybubble, or whatever you call it, and when that's started to stop with a few grogs I think they would start to recite it.

In the Hut's book I used a lot of Ted Winter's poems. They were very relevant for that, but this one I'm particularly interested in poems that are about droving, that are about taking stock into the mountains if there are any ?

You see that's, that's one about the end of the era.

Yes that's quite relevant in a way.

You've seen that, that one, one of the Cochran's riding back to

farewell his, what's the name of it ?

To visit his, one of them visits the other in hospital.

There's one where he rode back and the other one was dying and he rode back to shake his hand before he died. There was something or another about how he, if I can remember the words ^{of} how he trotted through Kiandra in the middle of the night.

It was re-published in the Tumut paper some time ago, but I haven't tracked it down yet. That one's available I mean it's published somewhere and I'm particularly interested in stuff that hasn't been published I suppose. Just to give it an airing partly.

One of the old, I thought it best to travel west in search of kangaroos, that was old Ted Rodgers. I can't just remember how it goes but that was just that part. He said "you hear the roar and rattle and see the saplings fall and you swear and ^{it was} wild cattle ^{and} not kangaroos at all". There is this old bloke that went looking to shoot a 'roo for dogs and he got lost, and he got lost for about three days walking in the bush.

Has that been written down that one ?

Yes I've got that one written down at home. Old Percy Harris wrote, Percy Harris wrote a lot of stuff and unfortunately I'm damned if I can find it. His son Arthur's dying, now he's got cancer and he's dying and I went and I saw Arthur the other day, and Arthur doesn't know what became of it. He wrote a lot of great stuff old Percy, you know it's, it's such a shame to think that it's, it's probably gone.

That's right. There has never been a collection of poems from this part of the world I don't think ?

Not that I know of.

In Victoria, there's a lot of stuff been published there now but not much here.

There's a guy in Cooma who's still alive, never ever published stuff in his own name but he wrote some very good stuff. He's Kevin McFadden, he just retired as the county clerk from the county council, he was very good. He wrote a lot of very good stuff but it never, he never sort of put his name to it. It was that reluctance with a lot of them to sort of put ~~their~~ name to it.

There was one that, who I wrote down. Well that's good that just about fills up the tape.

What I'll have to do is get this other bloke lined up you know he ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{damned} ~~damned~~ ^{good}. You know most of what I'm telling you is, I'm trying to do as much as I can but I don't get a great deal time because I think it's so, it's so necessary that so much of the history and tradition and so forth of this area was entrusted to people

with tremendous ability. Who unfortunately in most cases were illiterate and they not only, not only did they have great ability but so often they had terrific humour and I think great feeling. Tremendous feeling for the area and in most cases very, very astute ability to sum up their, their fellow man in many, many ways.

Interview terminated.

THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS STOCKMEN

by Boyd Mould

Well, my memory is fading now I'm getting on in years,
 There are fragments of my life I can't recall,
 Many little things remind me of the years I've left behind me
 But one vision lingers clearest of them all.
 I see how the country changes as the plains merge with the ranges
 And the foothills reach up to the great divide,
 I see mountains and clear streams most folk only see in dreams
 Up where the Snowy Mountains stockmen used to ride.

Now those men were hard as granite — they were resolute and tough,
 Just as rugged as the ranges that they rode.
 But at night around the fire those men never seemed to tire
 Of the mustering yarns those stockmen often told.
 But that era now has ended — all their grazing rights suspended,
 All the packhorse teams have long since been retired,
 But I always will remember the freedom and the splendour
 Where those Snowy Mountain stockmen used to ride.

It's not all a bed of roses — it's like any way of life,
 There are times you wish you'd never seen the place!
 When those winter winds start blowing and by night time it is snowing
 And the driving sleet's like gravel on your face.
 Then the fog rolls in with darkness to complete the mountain's harshness
 And you cannot see your hand before your eyes,
 So you leave it to your horse to select the homeward course
 To where your mates are waiting 'round the open fire.

Though those men all loved the mountains and the mateship that they found
 They relinquished all in making way for change
 Now the modern mountain flapper goes by four-wheel drive or chopper
 To supervise the running of the range.
 And the memories I will treasure are of hardship and of pleasure
 A taste of hell and heaven side by side
 Of splendours quite amazing and of sheep and cattle grazing
 Up where the Snowy Mountain stockmen used to ride.